(d) The movements in exchange rate are largely determined by demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market.

Impact of Expenditure Reforms Commission

*30. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission received so far which has been implemented; and

(b) what are the details of the impact of the implementation of these recommendations on the overall expenditure trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Expenditure Reforms Commission has submitted in all ten reports covering 36 Ministries/Departments besides four specific issues—Food subsidy, Fertilizer Subsidy, Autonomous Institutions and Optimizing Staff Strength. The recommendations contained in these reports have been forwarded to the concerned Ministries/Departments for implementation and are at various stages of implementation. The impact of these recommendations on overall expenditure would be known only after these are implemented.

Agency for procurement of natural rubber

*31. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agency fixed to purchase natural rubber at the Bench Mark price rates;

(b) by when such purchase was started and how much rubber has been purchased so far;

(c) whether Government have decided not to accept rubber variety lower than the RSS-5 grade, which forms 40 per cent of the sheet rubber; and

(d) whether Government have received any representation to review this decision and to accept rubber grade lower than the RSS-5 grade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Government has not fixed any agency to purchase natural rubber.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In compliance with the judgement of the High Court of Kerala, Government has fixed and notified the minimum, price of the two most commonly used classes of rubber namely, Ribbed Smoked Sheet-4 (RSS-4) and Ribbed Smoked Sheet-5 (RSS-5) under Section 13 of the rubber Act, 1947. Internationally there is no categorization of Sheet rubber below RSS-5. The price of the small percentage of offgrade rubber which cannot be sold under specified grades is determined by the market forces.

Impact of recent terrorist strikes on US funding.

*32. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorist strikes in America have an adverse effect on the US funding of Indian programmes;

(b) if so, whether many of these programmes which are phased up to 2002 have been greatly affected;

(c) the total projects that were being undertaken jointly by US;

(d) to what extent they have been affected; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information has been provided in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(d) No project has been affected by the terorist strikes in the US.

(e) Does not arise.